

**TALKIN' BOUT MY RENOVATION**



**Clever design:** Extensive backyard landscaping, a water feature, and intricate joinery and carpentry - which flowed from the landscape inside - finished off a chic renovation in New Farm. (Top right) How the property looked before the work began.  
Pictures: Christopher Frederic Jones

# Creative limit on space puts makeover on another level

**Vaughan Mayberry**

CLASS, fun and utilising limited space were the key aspects in the redesign of this classic Queensland worker's cottage, in Brisbane's inner northern suburb of New Farm.

The Mark St weatherboard home had already experienced a few face-lifts over its long life but the owners decided it needed a more stylish resort-style rejig.

Ultimately, the owners wanted a home that was all about fun, lifestyle and entertaining in the Queensland environment.

But sitting on just 450sq m and

with no space for expansion at the front or sides, the owners went for verticality and a stunning rear extension.

Brisbane architect Shawn Godwin, of Base Architecture along with Gold Coast builder Scown Constructions, then went to work over an 18-month period.

Internally, extra sleeping and bathing quarters were added on a new level, which was joined by a magnificent central staircase constructed from the existing chimney and its brickwork.

"That is a pretty special space and a lot of detail went into not just

making it a stairwell that went from A to B but had bit of a journey as you walked up," Mr Godwin said.

"They (the owners) collect artifacts which now sit in the the nooks and crannies.

"Then you have a view out the window that even though it is on the side boundary, the higher you get you look over the houses, and at a pinch, you could look out on to the bay from the very top."

At the rear, the Balinese-style deck and closed-in living space was transformed into a stunning open area sitting under a cantilever which added privacy, shelter and a feeling

that a building was mysteriously floating above you.

Extensive backyard landscaping, a water feature, and intricate joinery and carpentry finished off a chic renovation.

"It wasn't a massive extension monetary wise, or scale wise, but it completely changed the house," Mr Godwin said.

"It was only a 10m by 40m site and we pretty much made as good a use out of the space that we could.

"We had an opening party there and it was just a great atmosphere. You felt like you were in a plush resort."

**EXPERT TIPS + TRICKS**

**GOOD PLANNING**

**BEFORE jumping into a design you need a good understanding of the parameters and boundaries that surround the renovation including local planning, surveying, heights, services or neighbourhood restrictions.**

Gain a good understanding of budgets before you start and know exactly what they include such as consultants' fees, window treatments, landscaping, driveways and building works.

**Try to find out from the architect statistics from a similar project such as costs, timing, builders etc from the outset, so you can see if they meet your expectations.**

See if the architect will give references to be called to see how the process was for similar projects.



## Take an exclusive sneak peek at our next issue

**WHY DON'T YOU**

Spend an afternoon creating these beautiful pipe vases, made from items you can find in your local hardware store. Paint them in pale pastels or bright primary colours for an unusual table display. Find the instructions in our next issue.



**NEON ROMANCE**

Prepare to be dazzled by our fresh, new neon trend featured in our Nov-Dec issue! Integrate flashes of fluoro and hot electric colour into your home by offsetting the glare with neutrals and pastels. Don't forget, the secret to using colour confidently is allowing bright objects and features plenty of breathing space. Used well, fluoros and neon colours are the perfect way to welcome in the warmer months. **SLEEP IN TEXTURED STYLE** In the next issue we look at the comforting, tactile delight of natural materials in the bedroom. Pre-washed

or vintage linen is the ultimate, says Tom Adair from Abode. No other fabric softens or ages so well with washing. From crushed linen to crumpled cotton, beautiful textiles will add another element to a good night's sleep.

**ONE TO WATCH: FOLLOW**

The team behind The Finders Keepers markets in Brisbane has just launched an online store (as well as a shop called Follow in Sydney's Surry Hills), showcasing some of the creative talents that can be found at the bi-annual markets. The unique and sometimes one-off creations are perfect for Christmas presents, and



don't forget their upcoming markets on November 5 and 6. See thefinderskeepers.com for details.

**Grab your copy of Inside Out's latest edition, on sale from October 5.**

**Do you have a renovation project you would like to share? Email details and photos to [homeground@thesundaymail.com.au](mailto:homeground@thesundaymail.com.au)**